

## AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND TO THE COUNTY OF GALVESTON, TEX.

JUNE 18, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DAWSON of Illinois, from the Committee on Government Operations,  
submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 10479]

The Committee on Government Operations, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10479) authorizing the conveyance of certain land to the county of Galveston, Tex., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 5, strike the word "surplus" and insert in lieu thereof the word "Government".

Page 1, line 6, after the word "Texas" add "for public road purposes".

These amendments are technical in nature. The first is designed to obviate the possibility of semantic differentiation as to the precise administrative classification of the subject property. The property, "excess" to the needs of the United States Army, after the prescribed screening for further Federal utilization will in all probability be classed as "surplus" to the needs of the Government. However, at the present time it is not so classified.

The second amendment spells out the condition upon which the reverter clause in section 3 is predicated. The proposed transfer is conditioned on its future use exclusively for road purposes. That condition should expressly be stated in section 1.

#### PURPOSE

The Fort Crockett Reservation consists of 162 acres, 150 of which has been declared excess to the needs of the Army and, after pro forma screening other Federal agencies for use potential, will be sold to the public. This bill proposes that a small portion, viz approxi-

mately 13 acres consisting of a 100-foot-wide strip across the southern boundary of the reservation, be donated to the county of Galveston, Tex., to be used and maintained as a public road.

#### BACKGROUND

Fort Crockett has for many years been used by the United States Army as a Coast Artillery post. Antiquated coast artillery is now being discontinued, and consequently this particular property is being declared surplus to the needs of the Government.

A part of the land was donated to the Government in 1905 by the county of Galveston. By permit from the Secretary of War, the county has since 1925 maintained a roadway through the southern part of the reservation. This roadway, though not up to boulevard standards, is an integral part of a gulf-front boulevard continuous along the entire Galveston seawall.

#### STATEMENT

The strip of land in question, situated as it is along the gulf front, would appear to be highly desirable as a public roadway, particularly inasmuch as such a roadway would also serve as an integral part of the overall seawall project. By insuring the use of this small portion of a larger tract for road purposes, the value of the remainder will no doubt be materially enhanced. Not only from the pecuniary standpoint of an overall greater return to the Government, but also from the public interest to be served, the merits of this proposal, it seems, warrant favorable consideration.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee, upon a presentation of the merits of the bill by its author, Mr. Thompson, and after consideration of the worthwhile public purpose to be served, determined that enactment of the proposal would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the committee recommends the bill for favorable consideration.

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[H. R. 10479, 84th Cong., 2d sess.]

A BILL To authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey certain land to the county of Galveston, Tex.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Administrator of General Services is authorized and directed to convey without consideration by quitclaim deed a certain parcel of ~~surplus~~ *Government* realty, described hereinafter, to the county of Galveston, Texas, *for public road purposes.*

SEC. 2. The land referred to in section 1 is a strip of land one hundred feet in width, extending across the entire southerly boundary of old Fort Crockett Military Reservation, beginning from the centerline of Thirty-ninth Street, and extending westerly to the easterly line of Fifty-third Street, city of Galveston, Texas. Width of said strip is measured northerly from the northerly edge of the concrete seawall. A more particular description of the realty conveyed herein shall be

made in the deed of conveyance by the Administrator of General Services.

SEC. 3. If at any time within the twenty years following the conveyance herein the realty so conveyed is no longer used for public road purposes, title to such realty, together with all improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States of America.



